

# **MATTHEWS VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

August 2, 2017

## **Minutes**

Chairman Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Fisk asked for a moment of silence in memory of committee member Ed Dement who died on July 10, 2017. Several members spoke of Ed's dedication and passion for veteran causes and the personal effort he showed for the MVAC goals. He formulated some great plans and was much appreciated as the Subcommittee #2 Chairman. Gregg Smith call for a motion to dedicate this meeting in remembrance of Ed Dement. The motion was passed by acclamation.

**Committee Members present:** Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Terry Price, Gregg Smith, Jack Santaniello, Angelo Renguso, Janet Perkins, Larry Stawicki, Amanda Kohout, Nobie Thrasher, Fred Baylor, Ilse York, and Kathleen Wilsbach.

**Guests welcomed:** Veteran Michael Vento and wife Toni Vento, Matthews' residents, Mark Chiconski from Team SPEARHEAD, prospective member Vicki Greene, and Rad Pate, ToM Liaison to MVAC.

Mark was invited to explain Team SPEARHEAD, a philanthropy group that supports service members and veterans. A two-day premier event called Red Light & Blue starts in Matthews on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August. For further information contact [mark@teamspearhead.com](mailto:mark@teamspearhead.com).

**Minutes of June 7, 2017.** The minutes were approved as transmitted.

### **Old Business:**

1. A motion was made and seconded to accept Vicki Greene as a new MVAC committee member. Neil Broome is submitting his application to the ToM.

#### **2. Subcommittee 1.**

a. Chairperson Tom Cannon announced that the MVAC information sheet has been printed on card stock and is available to members who need it.

b. Tom reviewed MVAC 2017 Accomplishment vs. Objectives as follows:

- (1) Review with ToM Commissioners and Mayor on 2016 and plans for 2017.
- (2) Briefed ToM Staff of MVAC objectives and how they may impact the Staff.
- (3) Led the Vietnam War Exhibit at Community Center a week around Memorial Day.

- (4) Conducted a breakfast for veterans at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in June.
- (5) Developed an ongoing three-month List of Events in county to support veterans posted on ToM website.
- (6) Developed MVAC Face Book page.
- (7) Developed and funded MVAC banners to be flown in Matthews on holidays—Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Veterans Day. Designed placards and posters advertising MVAC.
- (8) Developed ½ page handouts on MVAC mission and summary of objectives.
- (9) Developed news releases. Only one YTD went to press.
- (10) Developed packet of MVAC information for new members.
- (11) Purchased a four tiered acrylic stand for information for veterans to be placed in Town Hall.
- (12) Briefed Town Council on proposed Signature Event. No further action.
- (13) Received recommendations for a Matthews parade for veterans possibly around Memorial Day, and, a motorcycle event.
- (14) Developed a list of local and area resources for veterans to be published in 3Q 2017.
- (15) Interfaced with organizations such as Charlotte Bridge Home and Veterans Service Organizations to help MVAC understand how it can provide vital resources.
- (16) Developed and obtained a 2018 budget from Town Council.

3. **Subcommittee 2.** Amanda reported that this month the Calendar of Events would not be published as Ed Dement had the contact list and upcoming events.

4. **Subcommittee 3.** Terry Price will provide Legion information.

5. **Subcommittee 4.** Gregg reported that subcommittee 4 will get with ToM Webmaster regarding information based on NC4Vets and other local events. Gregg announced that he is stepping down as chairman of this committee.

6. Regarding the June 2017 Veterans Breakfast, Fisk would like this successful event to be repeated next year with same basic plan under Subcommittee 2. About 30 veterans attended in June and many had pertinent questions for MVAC. Thank you notes will go out to Mt. Moriah Baptist Church and Pastor Whitley. Although budgeted for fiscal year 2018, Fred reported that he did receive donations from Food Lion and Costco for the 2017 event.

7. Regarding the May 2017 Vietnam Event at the Matthews Community Center, Fisk recommends including a Korean War display in a second room. Amanda recommended that the first floor of the Community Center be reserved for better traffic flow. A shorter event calendar was recommended by Fisk.

8. A MVAC meeting in mid August was proposed as a planning session for the committee; however, Fisk proposed our regular September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting be used primarily for planning purposes to review the role of MVAC, Bylaws and SOP's.

9. Fisk requested that members update the Member Connection Sheet and if none, say so. A sheet will be passed again at next meeting.

### **New Business:**

1. MVAC Communications. Ilse York recommended that there be less MVAC emails sent to all members unless pertinent to individual member. Fisk usually sends out an "after meeting report." Agenda for upcoming meetings are sent seven days prior. Minutes of previous meeting are also sent at least seven days in advance. Tom reminded members that the ToM email system should be used for communications. Amanda is MVAC's PIO and will coordinate with ToM Communications Director, Maureen Keith for posting MVAC minutes, MVAC website, and Face Book.

2. Rad Pate said that he will make sure that MVAC events are included in ToM publications and mailed postcards of Town events.

3. Fisk outlined the SOP protocol for MVAC members needing to meet with ToM Staff. A part of that protocol is to notify Rad, Tom and Fisk of that meeting.

4. Treasurer Jack Santaniello received a funding request for payment of \$174.76 for flowers for Ed Dement's funeral service. An envelope was passed to members to help defer the cost. Kathleen will be reimbursed for the order placed with The Blossom Shop in Charlotte. Rad will process the request through the ToM from the MVAC account. Monies collected will be used first to make the reimbursement. Regarding the budget, the following was discussed:

(a) Jack explained that the ToM approved a budget for MVAC for \$2500.00. All committee requests for funds should go to the MVAC Treasurer first.

(b) A committee request over \$500 requires two vendor quotes.

(c) How to accept a donation to be covered in the updating of MVAC's SOP's as suggested by Nobie Thrasher.

(d) Any monetary donations made to MVAC will remain in its budget; however, remaining funds of the \$2500.00 goes back to the ToM at the end of fiscal year 2018.

5. Janene McGee, Division Director of Mecklenburg County Community Veterans Services invited MVAC to participate in the Veteran Community Action Event, Wednesday through Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> at the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte. Tom asked for volunteers to man a MVAC information table on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Janet Perkins and Vicki Greene will take the 9 a.m. to noon shift, Gregg Smith will take noon to 1:30 p.m. and Ilse York will take 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tom and Fisk will be attending and help with shifts.

6. Janet suggested that MVAC be included on the ToM Official Flag.

7. Janet also brought up the discussion of MVAC's two-year term of office for committee members. Fisk said a new application must be submitted to ToM for another term which would be approved by MVAC and ToM. Fisk also mentioned that there is ToM protocol for dismissal from the MVAC for cause.

8. Rad Pate encouraged all committees be transparent with their projects and have a contingency plan for a business interruption.

9. Fisk stated that transitioning help for new veterans and spouses can be handled by the Military Transitional Offices prior to leaving service, and that Charlotte Bridge Home, the USO, County Veteran Services Organizations can also counsel those vets in need.

10. Angelo Renguso reported that there is a non-profit organization called Charity Watch that rates non-profits. He said that Paralyzed Veterans of America received an F rating.

11. Greg Smith had tickets available for the VFW Indian Trail Bar-B-Q on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

12. Tom and Fisk are working on creating an organization called Circle of Friends of the MVAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Kathleen Wilsbach, Secretary